



21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC)
2011 Fall Conference

August 9-11, 2011
Red Lion Colonial Inn
Helena, Montana

21st CCLC 2011 Fall Conference "*Where Kids come to Play*"



**Montana
Office of Public Instruction**
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

21st Century Community Learning Centers State Goals (ESEA Title IV B)

Performance Goal 1: Improve student-learning performance, for students of all ages, in one or more core academic area through consistent involvement in 21st CCLC programs.

1.1 As seen in student academic growth rates on the state MontCAS assessments

1.2 As demonstrated by attendance rates in the Out-of-School-Time Learning/Management System (OSTLMS)

1.3 As demonstrated by homework completion rates and classroom behavior reported by teachers in behavior surveys

Performance Goal 2: Offer a broad array of high-quality activities including youth development, drug and violence prevention, career development, art, music, recreation, technology education, and character education, which reinforce and complement the school day and positively affect school attendance, academic performance, and decrease disciplinary actions or adverse behaviors.

2.1 As reflected in afterschool programming reported in the OSTLMS

2.2 As demonstrated by social data results from the OSTLMS

2.3 As shown in anecdotal evidence provided during monitoring visits, observations and through the OSTLMS

Performance Goal 3: Provide programming to engage families of enrolled 21st CCLC participants with the intent of enhancing the home/school relationship, provide opportunities for parental involvement in school, and promote resiliency through family involvement.

3.1 As evidenced in the quality of enrichment and support services provided for families of participants reported in the OSTLMS

3.2 As reflected in attendance at special events offered by the 21st CCLC program

3.3 As demonstrated by the social data collection within the OSTLMS

3.4 As shown in anecdotal evidence provided during monitoring visits, observations and through the OSTLMS

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Sandi Smith

Mary Ellen Earnhardt
21st Century Community Learning Centers
Education Program Representatives
Office of Public Instruction
August 2011

Agenda for Tuesday, August 9, 2011

8:30 – 1:00	Registration	<i>Lobby</i>
9:00 – 12:00	Regional Directors Meeting	<i>Gallery</i>
	(Only Regional Directors)	
9:00 – 12:00	New Directors Meeting	<i>Judicial</i>
	(Only New Directors)	
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch for Regional Directors & New Directors	<i>Natatorium</i>
	(Only for Regional Directors and New Directors)	
1:00 – 2:30	General Session	<i>State/Capitol</i>
	Keynote Speaker – Superintendent Denise Juneau	
2:30 – 3:00	Break	<i>Hallway</i>
	Sponsored by Zaner-Bloser	
3:00 – 4:30	Breakout Session 1

Out-of-School Time and Juvenile Crime - Julie Fischer & Panel*Capitol*

A panel will have a discussion regarding Juvenile Justice and Afterschool programming. Panelists include Steven Bailey, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer for the 7th Judicial District Youth Court; Laura Singley, MJPOA President and Deputy JPO in Lewistown; Tim Brurud, BGC-HELP Committee in Havre; Shanda Wright, Program Coordinator for Youth Court Conferencing for First Judicial District in Helena; Dan Rispens, Principal, East Valley Middle School; Adam Mendez, former Helena High School student.

Outcome 1: Participants will identify potential afterschool stakeholders in their own communities.

Outcome 2: Participants will compare strategies to engage youth after-school.

Show Me the Money – Funding Environmental & Conservation Projects

Linda Brander, Lisa Perry, Jan Fontaine, Laura Andersen*Legislative*

Participants will learn how to think big and develop an environmental or conservation project, identify multiple grants to make their idea become a reality, cultivate partners with the natural resource community, and leverage assets to secure more expertise and money. Individuals will understand the importance of cultivating relationships with the grant managers and realize each funder wants to help them succeed.

Looking to engage and keep young adults involved - Sarah Sadowski*State*

Participants will learn about how to access and utilize the Young Adult Service Corps across Montana to engage young adults to benefit school and community-based programs, particularly after-school programs.

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2:30-4:30 - Tizer Botanical Gardens-Belva Lotzer and Dick Krott, JoAnn Eisenzimer, and Virginia Knerr *Tizer Botanical Gardens in Jefferson City, Montana – off site*
Virginia will have a session on Safety in the Outdoors with children. While you enjoy the wildlife, ecosystems and horticultural species, JoAnn will educate participants on how collaborating with Tizer Connections non-profit organization has benefitted her students and program. Please dress for the weather and see the BIO for Belva Letzer and Dick Krott for more information.

**Bus will be parked at the front of the hotel and will leave for Tizer Botanical Gardens 2:45....
SHARP!**

8:30-5:00 *Be sure to visit the Exhibitors; Tuesday -Thursday* *Lobby*
Agenda for Wednesday, August 10, 2011

8:30-10:00..... **Breakout Session 2**

Luck! Strategy!! Determination!!! Play the giant life-size game of SORRY

Sonia Young & Club Staff..... *Judicial*

Understand Montana foods through “hands on minds on” learning in gardens and outdoors. Standards driven lessons, popular children’s book lessons, easy grants, and materials to enhance student understanding will be distributed.

Youth Risk Behavior Survey and Other Wild Behaviors

Susan Court *State*

If you are looking for a Family Literacy Night Idea, this is the place. Learn how to use cost-effective ideas to implement a fun, exciting game night where families read together and play together. Participants will receive resources and information on how to conduct their own family fun game night.

Instant Creativity

Heather Geiger *Capitol*

Inspire students' imaginations with Instant Challenges. Engage them through teamwork and problem-solving. This fun hands-on workshop will include tips and tricks for involving students and samples to take home. This workshop is for those who have not previously participated in a Destination ImagiNation Workshop.

8:30 – 10:30 - Archery in the Schools as an AfterSchool Enrichment Program

Kurt Cunningham and Mark Faroni..... *Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Discovery Center*

National Archery Schools Program (NASP) is designed to provide International Style Target Archery training for physical education classes and after-school efforts for grades 4-12. Participants will be introduced to:

- the skills and knowledge necessary to instruct youth in the sport of archery;
- become familiar with the equipment required to conduct the program;
- provide ideas on integrating Indian Education into the program; and
- provide information about how to fund equipment purchases.

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8:30 – 10:30 – Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Discovery Center

Laurie Evarts..... *Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Discovery Center*
Laurie will provide a program on “how to” curriculum that helps educators to go beyond classroom walls and open student’s senses and excitement in the world outdoors by fostering outdoor observation skills.

**Bus will be parked at the front of the hotel and will leave for the Discover Center
8:45.... SHARP!**

10:00 – 10:30 **Break – Hallway**

8:30-5:00 *Be sure to visit the Exhibitors; Tuesday -Thursday* *Lobby*
Agenda for Wednesday, August 10, 2011

10:30 - 12:00 **Breakout Session 3**

Let's Get Cooking

Christine Ayers and Alice Burchak..... *Lewis*
This hands-on session will provide practical information on conducting a cooking program with children to help them expand healthy food choices and learn about gardening. You will also receive ideas on partnering with MSU Extension, recipes, and ways to incorporate STEM into learning through cooking with kids!

Finding Common Ground Between the Worlds of After-School and Juvenile Justice

Ria Overholt and Clint Arneson..... *State*
Participants will learn about the complex world of Juvenile Justice and how a meaningful and productive relationship can be developed that will benefit the children of your community. You will learn about a partnership in Hamilton, what it looks like, how it has developed and who you can contact in your community for more information.

Engage Your Students with Hands-On Science & Math Activities

Bergen Morehouse and Cass Staton *Capitol*
Educators who work with elementary students can explore scientific careers and the body through these "Exploration in Science & Math" kits from the In-A-Box program. Box topics include Eye, Ear, Brain, Guts, and Bones & Muscles.

"Put the 'Value' in 'Evaluation'"

Tim Brurud..... *Judicial*
When done in a comprehensive, thoughtful manner, evaluation can improve your program, impress your donors and help you reach your goals. This session will help you identify areas to evaluate and give you some helpful hints on how to take some of the hassle out of program evaluation.

Fun with Duct Tape

Carol Stratemeyer and Laura Goffena *Gallery*
Learn to make and teach duct tape wallets and purses for fun and profit! Participants will make a duct tape wallet and a purse or tote using only duct tape and used snack bags. This activity is a favorite for students and used as a ‘family night’ or parent/student teach to.

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12:00 - 1:00 – Lunch *Executive/Legislative*

Keynote Speaker; Dominic Spado was born in Aurora, Colorado on June 12, 1993. Dominic and his family moved to Clancy, Montana in October of 1998. He attended Montana City School K-8 and then Jefferson High School in Boulder, Montana, where he graduated in May of 2011. While at Jefferson High School, Dominic lettered in band, track & field and wrestling, holding the “Most Escapes in a Single Season” record. Dominic was the State treasurer of Skills, USA during his senior year. Dominic participated in the Service Learning Project several years and was also a leader of the Project during his senior year. Dominic drew up blue prints for the school noting all electrical and internet ports, as well as designed the front portico which is planned to be built by the construction class in 2012. Dominic is enrolled in the Computer Assisted Drawing program at Montana State University, Havre, for the fall semester, 2011.

8:30-5:00 *Be sure to visit the Exhibitors; Tuesday -Thursday* *Lobby*

Agenda for Wednesday, August 10, 2011

1:00 – 2:30 **Breakout Session 4**

Hands-On Economic Education for Youth - Heide Arneson..... *State*

Fun entrepreneurship activities for youth, including hands-on opportunities with gardens, crafts or services. This will provide you with programming and opportunities to practice what they have learned in a safe environment.

Reality Check - Deb Crapes..... *Judicial*

Participants will gain hands-on experience teaching middle school and high school students about careers, post-secondary training, and college prep. This information can be helpful in working with parents and community members too.

Teaching About Contemporary American Indian Issues - Mike Jetty *Lewis*

This session will provide ideas, resources, and strategies for teaching about contemporary issues in Indian country. Examples of current OPI lessons and resources will be shared with participants.

Grow and Know your Food - Lori Brenneman..... *Gallery*

Understand Montana foods through “hands on minds on” learning in gardens and outdoors. Standards driven lessons, popular children’s book lessons, easy grants, and materials to enhance student understanding will be distributed.

Out of this World - Heather Geiger..... *Capitol*

In this hands-on workshop, participants will learn to inspire the Imaginators in their programs with extended creative problem-solving challenges that keep them engaged in learning. Save room for samples and prizes. This workshop is for those who have participated in a Destination ImagiNation Workshops in the past.

2:30 – 3:00 **Break – Hallway**

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THANK YOU TO OUR EXHIBITORS AND SPONSORS FOR THIS EVENT
WHICH INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

MEDICA CHALK
ZANER-BLOSER
THE ORIGINAL EGG GAME
FOCUSED FITNESS
EDUCATIONAL K-12 SERVICES/INSTA-LEARN by STEP INC/MITCHELL LANE
PUBLISHERS
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION/TOBACCO
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION
MONTANA MARKETING

8:30-5:00 Be sure to visit the Exhibitors; Tuesday -Thursday Lobby

Agenda for Wednesday, August 10, 2011

3:00 – 4:30 Breakout Session 5

Montana 21st CCLC Evaluation - Jack Hatch and Travis FredricksonCapitol

Program evaluation is essential for the continual improvement process. Creating Change will be providing evaluation services to OPI and the state of Montana for the program year 2011-12 and this program will explain how that will be accomplished. Six major elements of effective 21st CCLC programming will be evaluated on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis for the purpose of continual program improvement.

Placement Pathways and Growth Through After-School Tutoring

Tyra McDonald.....Judicial

The Presentation will include the placement pathway utilizing Response to Intervention (RTI) for selection of students that participate in Math Navigation Tutoring. Program set-up, teacher and student communication, and student growth will also be discussed.

Money Smarts – Fun Ways to Help Students Learn About Money

Karen SmithState

Providing students with fun, interactive financial education games is one way to teach them to make smart financial choices. You'll leave this session with ideas and resources to make learning about money fun!

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Kurt Cunningham and Mark Faroni Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Discovery Center

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- provide ideas on integrating Indian Education into the program; and
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2:30 – 4:30 – Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Discovery Center

Laurie Evarts.....*Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Discovery Center*

Laurie will provide a program on “how to” curriculum that helps educators to go beyond classroom walls and open student’s senses and excitement in the world outdoors by fostering outdoor observation skills.

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Agenda for Thursday, August 11, 2011

8:30 – 10:00 **Breakout Session 6**

Science and Math Really Rock After-School

Julie Caster and Stacy Stimpson.....*State*

Math can be FUN! Participants will leave with a supply of games, activities, and Web sites to use in an afterschool program or a Family Math Night.

Honoring Student Voice: Achievement through Literacy and Character Development

Tammie Odenbrett *Gallery*

Participants will learn research on character development and literacy, explore multicultural literature used as instructional read-aloud to teach character development, and participate in social development and literacy activities.

Get Wild About Fitness and Health - Jabet Wheeler*Capitol*

Get lesson plans and activities to help after-school program staff integrate fitness and health concepts into energetic and motivating physical activities that teach and reinforce learning while being fun. Staff will understand how easy it can be to “teach” while also being active and having fun, intrinsically motivating children to pursue an active lifestyle and comprehend health and fitness concepts.

Montana 21st CCLC Evaluation - Jack Hatch and Travis Fredrickson *Lewis*

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An STRATEGY for an OBJECTIVE Approach to put your GOALS into ACTION

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Sandi Smith..... *Judicial*

Learn the art of creating goals and develop strategies with measureable objectives. You will then be able to generate action steps to accomplish your goals and objectives. You will learn about Bloom's Taxonomy of learning behaviors and how those behaviors can lead the learner to acquire new skills, knowledge, and/or attitudes.

10:00 – 10:30 **Break – Hallway**

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Agenda for Thursday, August 11, 2011

10:30-12:00 **Breakout Session 7**

Montana 21st CCLC Evaluation - Jack Hatch and Travis Fredrickson *Lewis*

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Federation of Galaxy Explorers - Marcia Flamengo *Capitol*

Participants will learn about the importance of space flight in relation to STEM education, and how they start their own Federation of Galaxy Explorers after-school program.

Let Kids Play While Making Movies in the Computer Lab

Aaron Christianson *Gallery*

Few things are more exciting/engaging for children than movies. Participants will gain a better understanding of digital storytelling/movie-making and a simple way to "make it work" after school.

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"Put the 'Value' in 'Evaluation'" - Tim Brurud *Judicial*

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12:00 - 1:30 Lunch*Executive/Legislative*

Keynote Speaker – Attorney General Steve Bullock - Awards Ceremony

Keynote Speaker – Donald Cox is 20 years old and currently works as a youth development assistant at the Boys & Girls Club of the Hi-line in Havre, Montana. As a junior in high school, Donald represented the Club as their Youth of the Year and also won the right to represent Montana at the regional competition in Dallas, Texas. Donald is a sophomore at MSU-Northern and serves as a youth representative on the Montana Youth Justice Council as well as the Co-Chair for the Western region of the Coalition for Juvenile Justice.

1:30 – 3:00 Regional Network Meetings

Hi-Line – Tim Brurud	<i>Montana</i>
West – Carol Stratemeyer.....	<i>Judicial</i>
Northwest – Cathy Gaiser	<i>Gallery</i>
Ravalli/Missoula – Ria Overholt	<i>State</i>
Central – Tedi Bishop	<i>Capitol</i>
Southeast – Brian Dennis	<i>Natatorium</i>
East- Laura Goffena.....	<i>Bitterroot</i>
Helena – Helen Paulson	<i>Helena</i>
Gallatin – Julie Hancock and Megan Brenna.....	<i>Senate</i>
Southwest – Laurie Duncan.....	<i>Governor</i>
Flathead – Crystal Meyer	<i>Clark</i>

Biographies

Laura Andersen, Water Quality Specialist at the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), manages a mini education grant program that provides educational grants to students and local groups who want to increase the awareness about non-point source (NPS) pollution issues that impact Montana's water quality. NPS pollution is caused by rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground. As the runoff moves, it picks up and carries away natural and human-made pollutants, finally depositing them into lakes, rivers, wetlands, coastal waters, and even our underground sources of drinking water. Common NPS pollutants include sediment, nutrients, heavy metals, pesticides, pathogens, pharmaceuticals, oil and salt.

Laura Andersen:
landersen@mt.gov 444-0549.

Clint Arneson has been working in the juvenile justice system since 1997. He has been the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer of Ravalli County since 2005. He is the father of two daughters who attend Lolo School where has served as a board member since 2006.

Heide Arneson has been the executive director of Junior Achievement of Montana for almost ten years. While her background is in physics, she has been involved in hands-on education for many years, in the areas of economics, math and science. She has two sons, one Cat and one Griz, and is a trustee for the Bozeman School Board. She volunteers in schools with her READ dog Loki.

Christine Ayers lives in Polson with her husband and two children. She has a bachelor's degree in Biology from Colorado State University and is working on her Elementary Education degree from Salish Kootenai College. Chris works as the Co-Director for the After School Programs in Polson and has been with the Polson School District for eight years. She loves to knit, hike and spend hours outdoors.

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Steven Bailey is the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer for the 7th Judicial District Youth Court. Steven received his bachelor's degree at the University of Montana in 1998 and began working with troubled youth in 2000, supervising community service projects under the direction of the Ravalli County Youth Court. Steven provides his clients innovative programs including parenting classes; community service; equine therapy; SMART Moves; and a Family Support program. Steven and his wife have three children and enjoy spending family time outdoors.

Linda Brander, State Restoration Coordinator at the Department of Natural Resources & Conservation, manages the mini-education grant program that provides educational grants for schools, local groups, and youth-related programs. The purpose of this grant program is to bring natural resource awareness, restoration, and conservation education to students and adults.

Lorri Brenneman works as the Agriculture Literacy Specialist for the Montana Department of Agriculture. Lorri taught school prior to taking this position. She earned a bachelor's degree in fine arts and plant sciences from MSU-Bozeman, and an associate of science degree at Flathead Valley Community College. Lorri also holds a master's degree from MSU-Bozeman in Education and Curriculum Instruction with an emphasis on curriculum development. Lorri has been involved in agriculture education for Montana for 10 years, and focuses her work on accurate agriculture education through hands-on methods.

Tim Brurud is the Director of the Boys and Girls Club of the Hi-Line in Havre, Montana. Tim has been an educator and a proponent of afterschool programming for more than 14 years. Currently he is a member of the Montana Board of Crime Control's Youth Justice Council and is the Regional Chair for the Hi-Line Afterschool Regional Network. Tim and his wife Sue have three children.

Alice Burchak was born in Montana and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Horticulture from Montana State University. She has been an MSU Extension Agent in Toole County since 2006 with responsibilities in 4-H Youth Development, Family and Consumer Science, and Community Development. In 2006, Alice partnered with the City of Shelby to develop a community garden to encourage the residents of Shelby to include more fresh produce in their diet. The garden currently has over 40 active family plots. Alice provides gardening and nutritional presentations for the students of Shelby Elementary and the after-school program.

Biographies, Continued

Julie Caster has been lucky enough to teach at many levels of school. After teaching for many years in the elementary, she is currently teaching in the Title I program for grades 7-12 at Huntley Project Schools. She also has worked as a teacher and site coordinator of the Kid Connection After-School Program at Huntley Project Elementary for seven years. She appreciates the time she has to spend working with children and their families.

Aaron Christianson was born and raised in Townsend, Montana; he is the founder of Media Chalk, an internet-based digital storytelling program used by students around the world. Aaron's excitement and passion for project-based learning helped him discover the value of movie-making as an educational tool. He enjoys all things "Montana" and spends as much time as he can with his wife and 3 children.

Susan Court has been the HIV/AIDS/Teen Pregnancy Prevention Specialist and the YRBS Coordinator at the Office of Public Instruction for the past 14 years. Prior to this position, she taught elementary physical education for 18 years. A graduate of Carroll College and native of Hinsdale, Montana, Susan enjoys playing piano and organ as a church accompanist, and golfing.

Donald Cox is 20 years old and currently works as a youth development assistant at the Boys & Girls Club of the Hi-line in Havre, Montana. As a junior in high school, Donald represented the Club as their Youth of the Year and also won the right to represent Montana at the regional competition in Dallas, Texas. Donald is a sophomore at MSU-Northern and serves as a youth representative on the Montana Youth Justice Council as well as the Co-Chair for the Western region of the Coalition for Juvenile Justice.

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JoAnn Eisenzimer has been an educator for over 45 years. She was Director of Cascade's 21st CCLC XCELL! Program for the past four years and Kathy has been an XCELL! She has been a Program Assistant at Tizer for the past three years. Jo Ann and Kathy, in partnership with Cascade's FFA Chapter, have developed a small greenhouse business to help sustain the 21st CCLC XCELL! Program.

Laurie Evarts, Education Program Manager at Montana Wild, has a master's in Curriculum and Instruction, with an emphasis in Science Education. Laurie has over five years experience in developing environmental education curriculum and programs that are tailored to meet the learning needs of at-risk youth and incorporates state academic standards.

Julie Fischer is the Juvenile Justice Specialist for the state of Montana and the State Coordinator for Montana's Do the Write Thing project. She manages juvenile justice grant programs, including Title II, Title V, and the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant. Additionally, Julie spent 17 years as an educator in Montana's public and private schools. As a single mother with three children she is very aware of the need for quality, affordable afterschool programming.

Marcia Fiamengo currently holds the position of Chief Operating Officer of Federation of Galaxy Explorers. As such, she finds herself balancing the growth and development of the organization with logistical considerations across the nation. Although Marcia has been ardently championing the inspiring role of space flight education in STEM initiatives for the last 12 years, her background is decidedly science and engineering-based. She has flown multiple experiments as part of NASA's Reduced Gravity Student Flight Opportunities program while studying nuclear engineering at Oregon State University.

Jan Fontaine, Administrative Assistant for the Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana, Inc., provides the fiscal oversight for the DEQ mini-education grant program.

Jan Fontaine: mail@macdnet.org 443-5711

Heather Geiger, a Montana native, earned her M.Ed. from Colorado State University. She is currently the State Director for Montana Destination ImagiNation, the world's largest creative problem solving program for students in Kindergarten through College. She has experience as enrichment program director, after-school program coordinator, substitute teacher, and an adapted physical education specialist. Her goal in life is to continue working with others to provide quality programs for children.

Biographies, Continued

Laura Goffena has two beautiful children, Makayla, 8 and Aspen, 2 ½, with one on the way, and a wonderful husband. She has lived in Roundup her whole life with the exception of a short stint at Fort Lewis, Washington. Since her return to Montana in 2003, she has been working and volunteering with the Kidz Klub Afterschool Program. She also has been the Coordinator for the Kidz Klub After-School program for seven years and has enjoyed every minute of it. She has a teaching degree but believes that after-school is the best place for her. She is also currently a Regional Director.

Mike Jetty is an enrolled member of the Spirit Lake Dakota Nation. Mike is currently working at the Montana Office of Public Instruction as an Indian Education Specialist. He has been working with Indian Education issues for the past 20 years and has teaching experience at both the K-12 and university level. He has a B.S. in History Education, a master's in School Administration and an Education Specialist degree.

Virginia Knerr has been the Broadwater County Extension Agent for the past 23 years. She coordinates the county 4-H program, and volunteers in community projects, including as an EMT with the Ambulance Service. Virginia is an avid horseperson-working as the 4-H Horse Leader, riding in rodeo events, and training many of her own horses. She is a hunter, and active outdoors advocate. Her vast knowledge of the environment, youth activities and experience working and playing outdoors, make her a perfect teacher for Safety in the Outdoors while working with Children.

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Belva Lotzer and Dick Krott have been the owner of Tizer Botanical Gardens for 13 years. Tizer Gardens is a research center for the Denver Botanic Gardens and for drought tolerance and high altitude plants. It is the only botanic garden in Montana. Belva and her husband Dick have assisted many schools with setting up native gardens, vegetable gardens and tree planting.

Tyra McDonald is a teacher at C.S. Porter Middle School in Missoula. She has been teaching for eight years. She teaches intensive math for 6th, 7th and 8th grades. Along with her full-time teaching at C.S. Porter, she is also the after-school math tutor for the 21st Century program.

Adam Flaco Mendez, Jr. was born in Walnut Creek, CA and was raised in Livermore, Pleasanton, and Antioch for the first 13 years of his life. Adam and his family moved to Helena, MT in August 2005, just before the housing market crashed, and have been living here since. Adam graduated from Helena High School in 2011, and will be attending Idaho State University in the fall of 2011, majoring in Theater with a minor in Dance. Adam's career goal is to become a success in the theater and music world; his dream is to not only support himself, but to open a community theater of his own in the barrios in the western states. Adam wants to help kids see the magic of theater and music and experience the joy and strength that theater and music can bring. Adam is one of those people who has discovered the beauty of the arts and plans to help others find it, too.

Bergen Morehouse is the Assistant Director for the South Central Montana AHEC – Area Health Education Center – based in Dillon, which is an affiliate of MHA, association of Montana Healthcare Providers. The SC MT AHEC is a relatively new office, opened in the fall of 2007, and Bergen has been with the organization since the fall of 2008. Bergen focuses on “pipeline” activities, which encourages K-12th grade students to pursue careers in the high-skill, high-demand, and high-pay healthcare industry. Since November of 2009 Bergen has been the State HOSA Advisor (Health Occupations Students of America) which is a state-wide student organization aimed at providing opportunities for students entering post-secondary healthcare education. Bergen works to connect K-12th grade students with healthcare industry resources to better equip the students to become the next generation of healthcare professionals. Bergen comes to the SC MT AHEC with a background in Human Resources. She worked for a HR Consulting Firm in Polson, Montana before moving to Dillon. In addition to her work with AHEC, Bergen serves on the Board of Directors for the Beaverhead County Chamber of Commerce. She was born and raised in Bigfork, Montana and is a graduate of The University of Montana with a B.A. in Organizational Communication and English Literature.

Biographies, Continued

Tammie Odenbrett has been involved in education for almost 20 years. In her 14 years in the classroom, Tammie taught students in grades K, 1, 3 and 5 as well as special education students with severe communicative disorders in a specialized program at San Francisco Hearing and Speech Center. Since coming to work with Zaner-Bloser she has worked with schools and districts on implementing various literacy programs, has presented at numerous conferences on language-arts topics and has conducted many teacher-training sessions on Zaner-Bloser products. Her sessions are vibrant with her experience and enthusiasm.

Ria Overholt has been a program director for seven years. Her love for the children in the community constantly drives her to find new avenues and ways of serving them better.

Lisa Reid Perry, Community Affairs Manager at PPL Montana, manages the Environmental Education Grant program. PPL's grant program searches for new ways to partner with school districts in communities. Lisa Perry: lrperry@pplweb.com

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Kathy Pickens has been an XCELL! Program Assistant for the past three years. She is involved in the partnership with Cascade's FFA Chapter, developing a small greenhouse business to help sustain the 21st CCLC XCELL! Program.

Dan Rispens is the principal of East Valley Middle School (EVMS) in East Helena. He holds a B.A. in English with a secondary teaching endorsement and an M.Ed from the University of Montana. EVMS, an exemplar MBI school, has done extensive work developing universal expectations as well as tier 2 and 3 intervention systems for student behavior. EVMS is currently working with the East Helena Quality Education Foundation to expand and diversify afterschool programming.

Sarah Sadowski heads up the Young Adult Service Corps (YASC), an AmeriCorps program of the Jobs for Montana's Graduates Foundation (JMGF). Each year, YASC engages 110 Montana students into service in Montana. The YASC serves as a volunteer incentive and as a means to engage Montana's young adults in service to their schools and local community-based organizations. Through a partnership with JMGF, school and community-based organizations offer young adults the opportunity to earn a \$1,132 Education Award for local volunteerism. Montana's young adults serve in schools as after school program helpers and mentors, and may also serve with community based organizations.

Sarah earned her B.A. in Psychology with a minor in Wilderness Studies from the University of Montana in Missoula. Sarah is a two-term Alumni with AmeriCorps*VISTA, one year in Fairbanks, Alaska and the second year in Helena, Montana. Sarah has worked as staff for the National Service programs since 2005 and has been with JMGF since January 2007. Sarah enjoys hiking, growing houseplants, laughing and talking about AmeriCorps!

Laura B. Singley is a Deputy Juvenile Probation Officer for Montana's 10th Judicial District as well as the current President of the Montana Juvenile Probation Officer's Association. Previously, Laura was a CASA/GAL Program Director. Laura is a proud member of the Chickasaw Nation; has been married for 31 years; and is honored to be the parent of three biological children and several foster children. Laura's life, volunteer, and work experience have helped her develop a keen understanding of children, teens, and families across Montana - especially those in difficult situations and in rural areas.

Karen Smith promotes financial and consumer education across Montana by credit unions, social service organizations, and educators with the tools, resources, and support they need to provide financial education in their communities. Karen is a current board member of the Montana Financial Education Coalition.

Sandi Smith, a former elementary teacher, educational technology specialist, college instructor, and educational consultant, is currently in her fifth career as the 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) Education Program Representative at the Montana Office of Public Instruction. She oversees the 21st CCLC afterschool grant program, which funds 72 grantees throughout the state of Montana. Sandi received her B.A. in Elementary Education from Carroll College and her M.Ed. in Computers in Education from Lesley University. She is a board member for the First Presbyterian Church afterschool program and a member of Helena's HEY-Net (Youth Connections) afterschool committee. She has a son and daughter and three beautiful granddaughters.

Biographies, Continued

Dominic Spado was born in Aurora, Colorado on June 12, 1993. Dominic and his family moved to Clancy, Montana in October of 1998. He attended Montana City School K-8 and then Jefferson High School in Boulder, Montana, where he graduated in May of 2011. While at Jefferson High School, Dominic lettered in band, track & field, and wrestling, holding the "Most Escapes in a Single Season" record. Dominic was the State treasurer of Skills, USA during his senior year. Dominic participated in the Service Learning Project several years and was also a leader of the Project during his senior year. Dominic drew up blue prints for the school noting all electrical and internet ports, as well as designed the front portico which is planned to be built by the construction class in 2012. Dominic is enrolled in the Computer Assisted Drawing program at Montana State University, Havre, for the fall semester, 2011.

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Cass Staton is the Outreach Coordinator for the Eastern Montana AHEC (Area Health Education Center) - based in Billings and under the leadership of Riverstone Health. Cass serves the K-12th grade student population in 27 Eastern Montana counties. Her role is to encourage students to pursue health care careers and connect them with the resources to do so. Cass holds a master's degree in Public Relations with an emphasis in Health Communication from Montana State University-Billings. She also served as a Youth Development Peace Corps Volunteer in Peru from 2007 to 2009.

Stacy Stimpson grew up in Absarokee and teaches K-7 special education in Belt. She has two children who followed in her teaching footsteps. Jon is a secondary special education teacher in St. Joseph, Missouri and Katie is a Kindergarten teacher in Highwood. Belt Valley Kids Rock! Participants will walk away with a full science unit on rocks and minerals, hands-on activities and lesson plans. Kid tested, kid approved!

Carol Stratemeyer is Project Director for Noxon Schools Project Success and a former Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, program designer and community outreach coordinator. In addition to teaching after school crafts and woodworking, she teaches adult education classes in 'Trash to Treasure, beading and creative writing.

Sonia Young loves working with youth. She stays busy helping her husband, loves spending time with her family and in her spare time gardens. She has been the Program Director at the Boys & Girls Club of the Hi-Line in Malta for the past six years and Project Coordinator/Prevention Specialist for the Phillips County Coalition for Healthy Choices for nine years; Adult Staff at Youth to Youth International Western States Conference Claremont, California, three years; Program Director, Sales/Commercial Production, Disc Jockey for 17 years at KMMR Radio; Served as Malta Chamber of Commerce Chairperson one year, Vice Chair two years and on the Board of Directors three years; Malta Chamber Merchants Committee Chairperson two years, Vice Chair one year; 21 years as a Church Youth Leader for girls ages 5 to 12; Assistant Speech & Drama Coach for Malta High School two years; Graduate of Malta High School; and studied Mass Media Communications, English, and Psychology at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota.

Jabet Wheeler has been with Focused Fitness since October 2010. Prior to that she invested 13 years with the American Heart Association, first in Montana and then as Regional VP of the Youth Market in the Pacific Northwest, presenting at State and Regional conferences and also taught for the Washington State Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction's Summer Institute on youth health and fitness.

Shanda Wright is the program coordinator for Community Youth Justice – a Restorative Justice program through the Juvenile Probation Office that aids community volunteers assist youth offenders in repairing the harm they have caused. Shanda has also been a coordinator for a before and after school enrichment/ childcare facility in Fort Collins, Colorado, and a Branch Director for Big Brother Big Sisters in Wyoming. As a mother of two school-age girls she is very aware of the need for quality, affordable afterschool programming.

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